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FRIDAY

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America's Warfighting Center

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Section assists in preparing 30th eSB for deployment

24th Infantry Division's mission validated during train-up of National Guard Brigade

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Imagine writing a play that lasted two weeks - day and night, with 4,500 actors, hundreds of extras and a stage that stretched for 20 square miles. Oh, and when the curtain goes up on the performance, people will be shooting at you.

This and much more is just another everyday exercise for the Soldiers in the 24th Infantry Division, G-3 Section, who have been tasked to train and evaluate the

30th Heavy Separate Brigade before they deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 30th eSB is currently at Fort Polk, La., beginning a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center. The JRTC is designed to simulate the conditions in Iraq as closely as possible. The Soldiers with the G-3 shop design the training, storylines and evaluations which the 30th eSB will encounter, much like a very dangerous play that never ends.

According to Maj. Michael King, G-3, reserve component operations unit, this is

also a validation of the 24th and it's mission.

"The 24th Inf. Div. exists because of the integrated division concept with the three enhanced brigades," said King. "Part of our core mission is to reduce the time that it takes to actually train and mobilize a National Guard unit, so in essence, this exercise for the last four months with the brigade, this MRX and actually getting them on the planes and the ships is a validation of the integrated division concept."

King and the G-3 shop have spent the

last few months preparing extensively for this exercise. While at the JRTC, the 30th eSB will go into "The Box," an area which has been designed to simulate what these soldiers will see while on deployment in Iraq. The Box is staffed with Arabic speaking townspeople, villages, churches and anything else that might be encountered in country. All of the story lines, attacks, missions and anything else that might occur to the unit while in the box have been carefully scripted through a joint mission with the 24th Inf. Div., G-3 and their JRTC coun-

terparts.

"There are several events that everyone has seen on TV and we try to incorporate those same kinds of things into the events that they will face here," said King. "This can go from something as simple as dealing with a crowd of people complaining about a water problem in their village to taking down safe houses with blacklisted individuals."

The storylines that planners will be

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Demolition: no problem

Building removed with Air Force help

By Jamie Bender
1st BCT PAO

AR RAMADI, Iraq-When you want a building removed, there are several ways you can do it. If you have a wrecking ball, you can smash it down. If you have a bulldozer, you can push it down. If you have an Air Support Operations Squadron, you can blow it down.

The 10th ASOS, in support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, did just that in Operation Stocking Stuffer on Dec. 26.

The unoccupied structure had been the site of several attacks on 1st BCT Soldiers.

"It was a known safe haven for [improvised explosive device] setters," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Donald Sinde, enlisted terminal attack controller, 10th ASOS. "1st Brigade Soldiers had been attacked several times by IEDs, small arms and rocket propelled grenades from that house."

The decision to bomb the structure came from Col. Buck Connor, commander, 1st BCT. After the sixth attack on Soldiers on Dec. 22, Connor said, "Let's make it go away."

The 10th ASOS sent the proposal up through Air Force and Army channels to get approval to destroy the structure.

"It went up through [82nd Airborne] Division and up to the [V] Corps Commander for approval," said Sinde. "We also sent it through the Air Force so they could assess the target and do all the collateral damage assessments. It took about 48 hours to be approved."

The bomb used to level the building was a 2,000 pound JDAM with a 60-millisecond delay fuse.

"With the JDAM, there are three separate types of fusing that you can put on it," explained Sinde. "One is an instantaneous fuse, which will hit and instantaneously explode. That causes a lot of damage. It can land on any side of a building and it will destroy it and anything around it. Then there is a 10-millisecond delay fuse that will minimize collateral damage a little bit, but it will still completely destroy the structure... The 60-millisecond delay fuse is specifically designed to reduce the collateral damage and allows friendly forces to be a lot closer to the target."

The 60-millisecond delay fuse was used because the structure was in a populated area.

"The fusing allows the bomb to go through the building, penetrate the ground itself," explained Sinde. "It is designed specifically to not blow up the building, but collapse it into the hole that it creates underneath."

Even though collateral damage was going to be small, Soldiers

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Members of the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade stop outside of a town in "The Box," a training area at Fort Polk designed to replicate the situations Soldiers may face in Iraq. While patrolling the sprawls and towns in the 20 square miles of training area, units performed civil affairs missions, interacted with local leaders and sometimes came under attack by the OPFOR. Soldiers trained to use the same techniques Iraqi insurgents are using in theater.

SMA Kenneth Preston sworn in

Priorities include instilling warrior ethos, training, Army families

By Joe Burlas
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON - Introduced by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker as the right man for the job, Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston was sworn in as the 13th sergeant major of the Army during a Pentagon ceremony Jan. 15.

Preston replaces Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley who was recognized for his 35 years of service during a retirement ceremony earlier in the day. As sergeant major of the Army, Preston will act as the Army's chief of staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life. That job entails extensive travel throughout the Army to observe training and talk with Soldiers and their families. He will also sit on a variety of councils and boards that make decisions impacting enlisted Soldiers and their families and testify before Congress on Soldier issues.

"(Preston) is the finest non-commissioned officer in the Corps," Schoomaker said. "We have a real Soldier here. I am confident he will serve our Soldiers well as we transform and reorganize our Army."

One of the Soldiers Preston will serve is his own son, Spc. Michael Preston, Michael is a member of the 327th Military Police Company, an Army

Reserve unit based in Maryland and currently deployed in Iraq. Michael was able to attend the swearing-in ceremony as he was home on leave under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Program.

Because his son is a reservist, Preston said he believes that he will be able to better serve the Army Reserve and National Guard as Michael has no problem discussing reserve-component issues -

"the good and the bad" - with his dad.

"With 20 to 25 percent of our forces currently in Iraq being Guard or Reserve, their issues are important," Preston said.

Serving the nation in the military is a family tradition, Preston said. His mother served in the Air Force and his father in the Army during the 1950s. Both attended the swearing-in ceremony. All of his uncles served in the military, during World War II or the

Korean War. Four of those uncles were also present for the ceremony.

Among Preston's stated priorities in his new job are: ensuring Soldiers are properly trained and equipped to win against the nation's enemies; instilling the warrior ethos in all Soldiers as "every Soldier is a rifleman first," facilitating change as the Army embraces new formations, technologies and tactics; and caring for Army families.

Change has been and will continue to be the norm for the Army, Preston said. "Our enemy on freedom's frontier is adapting to our tactics everyday and so must we adapt and change out tactics to defeat this threat," Preston said.

"Change and evolution are not new to us. Our veterans here today have seen many improvements and changes in our structure and tactics over their service."

"With the foundation of basic Soldier skills to build upon, we will continue to chart an azimuth to adapt to this ever-changing battlefield."

Preston has served in the Army for 28 years, mostly in armor units throughout his career.

Prior to his selection as sergeant major of the Army, he was the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker and Karen Preston take part in the ceremony where Kenneth Preston is sworn in as the 13th sergeant major of the Army Jan. 15 in the Pentagon.

Veteran visits Soldiers

By John S. Wollaston
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - Sometimes, when you're having a bad day, it helps to talk to someone who's had a worse day and made it through. For the soldiers of the Bulldog Brigade, hearing Dave Roevers talk was the shot in the arm that most of 3rd Brigade needed.

"I want to tell you from the bottom of my heart as I stand here before you today, thank you for what you're doing over here," Roevers said to a full house at the Brigade's Bulldog Theater. "It's been 32 years since I've been in a combat zone, and I wanted to come here to say thanks for allowing me to sleep comfortably in my bed at night."

If there's ever been anyone whose taken advantage of the adage about "turning lemons into lemonade," it's Dave Roevers. A gunner's mate in the "Brown Water" Navy in Vietnam, Roevers was on a patrol when a phosphorus grenade exploded next to his face severely burning most of his body.

"I was getting ready to throw it to burn away some brush near the banks of the river when it went off," said Roevers. "Just one second longer was all I would have needed and that grenade would have been out of my hands," Roevers explained. Roevers told the audience that had the grenade been tossed safely overboard, the snipers' bullet that struck the grenade causing it to explode prematurely in his hand, would have killed him.

Roevers was so badly burned that the medics who loaded him on the helicopter thought he was dead. "I had half of my face and my right ear burned completely away, I had blood spurting from an open artery in my right hand and I could see my heart beating in my chest," Roevers told a captivated audience. "When the medics put me on the stretcher initially, I burned through the stretcher and fell on my head when I hit the ground."

Wrapping him in a blanket soaked in river water, he was finally loaded in the helicopter. Thinking he was dead, the medics didn't do anything to try and help him, and so Roevers took matter into his own hands. "From under that blanket, I summoned all the strength I had left and yelled 'Medic!' That got everyone's attention real fast."

Roevers, who is now a successful motivational speaker, travels across the country every year delivering his message of hope and telling people how he overcame adversity. That message is that no matter how bad things seem to be, don't give up. And Roevers should know, because

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using build on each other, King said. With each action or engagement in the box, the brigade will have to assimilate information and lessons learned to try and prevent escalation or worsening attacks.

"What we have done is linked a lot of the storylines together," said King.

"The Brigade may initially get an intel feed that says that someone is preaching anti-U.S. rhetoric during his sermons. If the S2 shops do their jobs and get involved in the analysis of the intelligence that they have been given, then the brigade can step in

and prevent events from happening."

The opposite is also true, said King. If the brigade fails to pick up on something such as thefts at ammunition storage sites, then they will see truck bombs later in the area.

The escalation forces the intelligence shops to be better at predicting the outcome of the events that they are seeing.

Aside from the exercise, the G-3 is also helping integrate the reserve unit into the everyday operations of the regular Army.

"In every aspect, we coach, teach and mentor our counterparts

in the Brigade," said King.

"There are a lot of things that you do in active duty that the National Guard doesn't do in the same manner, so we try to coach them along and help them see the way the regular Army does things," he said.

The planning and execution of this mission has been an intense period for those involved.

King has been working with the 30th eSB for over a year and many other Soldiers have returned from Iraq and immediately left home for TDY to support this mission with real world knowledge gained from their time in

country.

King acknowledged that even though the Soldiers from 24th Inf Div., may not be in Iraq, the support of their families and friends at Fort Riley was integral.

Many had spent months away from home helping to prepare their fellow Soldiers to go into harm's way King explained.

"It has been a tremendous effort on the part of every staff officer, NCO or enlisted that I have seen out here from 24th Inf. Div.," said King, "to really lend in and ensure the success of the brigade."

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Post/Wollaston

Vietnam Veteran Dave Roever and Brigade Chaplain, Maj. Larry Blum talk with a member of the 3rd Brigade guard force during Roever's visit to the 3rd Brigade headquarters.

3rd BCT continued from page 1

when everyone else gave up on him, Roever didn't give up on himself. From laying in the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas listening to his father read to him the telegram telling him that his son had died, which Roever says they were both laughing at, to the nearly two years he spent in hospitals going through surgeries to repair and replace his burned skin to the support and love of his wife, he never gave up. Well, almost never.

He relates the story about how early in his recovery after seeing himself in a mirror he tried to "pull the cord" as he describes it, an attempt to disconnect the IV's that were keeping him alive.

"But I pulled the wrong one," Roever says laughing with his audience. "And when you wake up wanting a cheeseburger like I did, you know that maybe it wasn't your time to die."

Roever told the soldiers to seek out friends and loved ones to talk to about their experiences in Iraq when they return and not go back to bad habits they might have shaken or gotten rid of due to their deployment.

Brigade Command Sergeant Major Nathaniel Hopkins, who presented Roever with a Bulldog Brigade coin and a certificate of appreciation for his visit, seemed to sum up the feeling of most of the soldiers in attendance when he said, "I was feeling pretty down about our situation, until I heard you speak, now thanks to you I'm feeling better."

Before he left, Roever posed for pictures, signed autographs and visited the soldiers standing guard around the compound who did not have the opportunity to hear him speak, thanking all of them for serving and doing their duty in Iraq.

1st BCT

continued from page 1

from 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, cordoned off the area, positioning M2-A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles to block traffic.

Before destroying the building, Connor and his security team took one last look through it.

"The enemy had wires running into the breaker box to set off IEDs by flipping a switch," said Connor.

Two bombs were dropped on the building, the first missing the center," said Sinda.

"The second was right on target. It worked actually better than we planned. We were expecting some of the structure to still be there, but with the soft ground underneath it just dropped the whole thing into the hole."

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Chaplains assist in training National Guard unit for Iraq

By Ryan D. Wood
19th PAD

Preparing a unit for deployment takes many things - beans, bullets and... bibles? Yes, bibles. As the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade prepares for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, chaplains from the 24th Infantry Division are assisting with the training and preparation of their counterparts, many very

new to the Army, who must now minister and council soldiers under their care in wartime conditions.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Timothy N. Willoughby, division chaplain, 24th Inf. Div., has taken on the mission of preparing these soldiers of the cloth for their new mission in Iraq.

While at Fort Polk, Willoughby has taken on the role of advisor and mentor as the seven ministry

teams associated with the 30th eSB train in simulated battlefield conditions.

"I am continuing my role with the 30th Brigade ministry teams in training them in how to perform their mission in the combat environment," said Willoughby. "I trained with them prior to arrival here at Fort Polk and came down to work in conjunction with the unit ministry team observer controllers to coach and mentor

the teams as they go through their training here."

A major hurdle the ministry teams are working to overcome is the influx of new chaplains the brigade has seen in the past year. New chaplains have seen extensive training in the soldiering aspect of their jobs in an effort to prepare them for the conditions they are about to face in Iraq.

"The Brigade chaplain is a

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Soldiers trying to carry prohibited items on airliners

WASHINGTON (Army News Service.) — A junior Soldier was stopped from boarding a commercial airliner after an inert landmine was found in his checked baggage this month.

Increasingly Soldiers are attempting to carry prohibited items on commercial airliners either going to or returning from an overseas assignment, officials said.

This act could be a career ender for Soldiers under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, said Chet Spangler, Air Traffic Control staff specialist, Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency.

Recently, the Transportation

Security Administration confiscated various items to include five pounds of fireworks, brass knuckles with a four-inch knife blade, a loaded BB pistol and a nine-millimeter pistol during airport security checks," Spangler said.

According to the United States Code of Federal Regulations, a person who attempts to carry prohibited items on an airplane is subject to a \$10,000 civil penalty.

The junior Soldier who was detained for checking a landmine in his baggage was not charged with a criminal offense, but could face civil penalties, according to an article by the Denver bureau of the Associated Press.

Violations committed by mili-

tary servicemembers in the performance of official duties requires the TSA to refer such cases to the appropriate military authority for disciplinary action appropriate under the UCMJ, Spangler said.

Commanders are strongly encouraged to thoroughly brief Soldiers on which items are prohibited when traveling on civilian air carries to prevent future violations, officials said.

Spangler said the staffing process for Soldiers who are caught with prohibited items in their carry-on baggage is as follows:

The TSA will provide a certi-

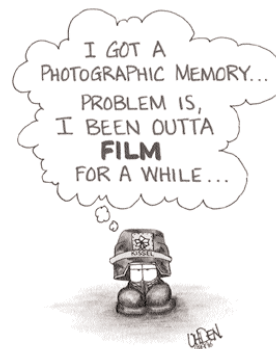
fied case file to Headquarters, U.S. Army

Aeronautical Services Agency with a 90-day suspense. Next, the Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency will see the case file to the appropriate major command with a 60-day suspense.

The MACOM will be required to determine if the Soldier was within his right to carry the item because he was performing official duties.

In the event the MACOM determines that the violation was not in performance of official duties, the TSA would take enforcement action.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



Unit News Commentary

By Scott Johnson,
937th Eng. Grp. (Cbt)

The 937th Engineer Group passed a milestone in its support to Operation Iraqi Freedom last week when it began to transition its responsibilities to the Coalition Provisional Authority's Program Management Office. For the last seven months, the group has been responsible for assessing, coordinating and developing specifications for, and refurbishment of bases, garrison's, and facilities for the Iraqi Army.

The group has performed this daunting task in a hostile and sometimes very unfriendly environment in outstanding manner according to Maj. Gen. Eaton, the commanding general of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT). Within four months of assuming the mission, the group developed a two year \$800 million facilities infrastructure program directly linked to CMATT's plan to man, train and equip newly formed Iraqi Army units.

While the price may seem high, with very few exceptions, former Iraqi Army facilities were neglected, in various states of serious disrepair, damaged in conflicts over the last 10 years or looted. Every facility required a significant amount of work to make it a complete and usable installation. In some instances, there are no usable buildings on the selected site that could be refurbished. In those cases, new facilities had to be designed and built.

During the same four month time frame, the group was putting together the long range program, they were planning, contracting and beginning work on two former Iraqi Army facilities capable of housing over 9,000 Iraqi soldiers. These two facilities - Kirkush Military Training Base

(KMTB) and Tadjil Military Base - are being used to house newly trained battalions of Iraqi Infantry, and to train and equip Iraqi soldiers.

Much of the initial 2003 work on both KMTB and Tadjil was funded using seized Iraqi funds and contracted with the assistance of the Iraqi Ministry of Housing and Construction to Iraqi construction contractors. The next phase of refurbishment projects, and the remaining 2004 projects will be contracted through the Program Management Office with supplemental funds from the United States. The group's master planning efforts and project development with key CMATT planners resulted in a request for \$745 million for the 2004 facilities infrastructure program that was approved by both Congress and ultimately by President Bush in November 2003.

By the end of January, work will begin on \$160 million in priority CMATT projects. By July 2004, the facilities infrastructure program will provide barracks, offices, support facilities and

vehicle maintenance areas for up to 32 infantry battalions and the associated nine brigade and three division headquarters.

Additionally, an air force base, a naval base, a rotary wing aviation base, a military academy, and an Iraqi Ministry of Defense Headquarters will be refurbished or built.

The 937th Engineer Group's success in refurbishing the two critical Army bases, and establishing a viable program for the Iraqi Army and CMATT is directly linked to the professional "can do" mission execution by the Soldiers and leaders in the unit. Tadjil Military Base and KMTB would not have been ready on time without the efforts of Master Sgt. Virgil Toombs, Sgt. 1st Class Joey Cruz, Sgt. Joshual Wingfield, Capt. Pat LaChance, Capt. Chris Miller and Maj. Jose Aguilar.

These Soldiers managed project execution daily with the assistance of representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, coordinated with coalition units and CMATT for support, and worked hand in hand

with Iraqi Ministry of Housing and Construction engineers and contractors.

The USACE augmented master planning team headed up initially by Capt. Shawn Nelson and later by Capt. Chris Morris, developed the site plans, specifications and requirements at every major Iraqi Army facility in the program in less than seven months.

This team was also able to develop additional master plans and specifications for future Iraqi Army facilities that can be built by the government of Iraq in the future.

As the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) transitions from supporting CMATT and the Iraqi Army construction effort, and

begins its preparations to move back to Fort Riley in spring 2004, the Group's Soldiers can be proud of the missions they accomplished.

They not only made significant contributions during major combat operations to remove the Saddam regime from power, they were an instrumental part of the plan to bring stability to Iraq.

The excellent mission accomplishment by the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) truly demonstrates the superb caliber of personnel in the unit and ability of our U.S. Army units to adapt to mission requirements in a changing combat environment.

Tony Leketa, the chief of construction for the newly created

Program Management Office, recently stated during a gathering at the Coalition Provisional Authorities Headquarters that the construction program and planning by the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) is the model construction program his office will use for approximately \$1.2 billion worth of construction.

Based on the work they were able to accomplish and the program they put together, it is obvious that the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) made a very positive and lasting impact on the coalition's effort to rebuild Iraq and to provide the Iraqi people an opportunity to live in a democratic state with the freedoms and economic prosperity they deserve.

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Rapid Fielding Initiative designed for quick equipment modifications

By Ryan D. Wood

19th PAD

It has been said that, "an army moves on its stomach." That may be so, but it stays comfortable and safe with its equipment. In an effort to equip Soldiers with the best equipment available, the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade, which will soon deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, is benefiting from the Rapid Fielding Initiative initiated by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

The initiative is designed to use feedback from Soldiers in the field to make rapid modifications and buy new equipment, benefiting the Soldiers as quickly as possible, said Todd Wendt, director for logistics and tests for Program Executive Office Soldier. According to Wendt, PEO's mission is "to arm and equip Soldiers to dominate the full spectrum of peace and war, now and in the future. All aspects of Soldier equipment are developed to be integrated, modular, interoperable and mission tailored."

This quick issue sometimes drops years off of the time it would take to issue the new equipment in a traditional supply chain, said Wendt, and provides Soldiers the newest, safest and most comfortable equipment they can get.

"We found there were things Soldiers were buying for themselves when they were deploying and realized that it wasn't appropriate, so we figured out a way to get those Soldiers some better equipment which improved survivability, lethality and just plain comfort," Wendt said as he sat amidst pallets piled high with the new equipment to be issued to the 30th eSB.

Even the least of the stuff that we are distributing would be six

months out traditionally. With the helmets, this is an issue that would have taken five years or more to do what we will get done by the end of the year," he said.

Improving Soldier comfort has been a major push with the current issue according to Wendt. "Soldier Mission Essential Equipment" is the term used to describe the new items. The list includes fleece bibs, moisture wicking T-shirts and socks, silk weight underwear, a hydration system, and more, all designed to make the Soldiers time in the field more comfortable.

Comfort isn't the only issue that the Army is looking to improve. Upgrading the lethality and combat effectiveness of the equipment and getting it to the Soldiers who need it is also a priority.

"We provide close combat optics that mount on the M-16 or M-4 so that they can do close quarters combat with the rifles," said Wendt. "We also provide them with the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight 4x scope that gives them ballistic optics so they can shoot longer distances if they need to."

A major improvement has also been rolled out with the Advanced Combat Helmet being distributed to the Soldiers, said Wendt. Using feedback gained from Afghanistan and other combat areas it was discovered that when in the prone firing position, current issue helmets had a tendency to slide into the field of view. The new ACH answers that issue with a four point head harness, a nape pad, a wider field of view, integrated soldier-adjustable padding and much improved ballistic protection. To top it off, the helmet is lighter and better balanced.

Wendt stressed that units such as the 30th eSB are going to be at the peak of technology and com-

fort with the new layout. Even though the 30th may be a reserve unit, they are not getting anything substandard to the regular Army units who are being deployed, he assured.

"In many instances they are getting materials which are better than regular Army issue because of this RFI and the push to outfit new deployments as fully as possible," said Wendt. "We want the

people back home to know that these units are not getting short changed at all."

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Selzler, a supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 230th Support Battalion, helped distribute the new material and saw the effect that the issue had on the Soldiers preparing to assume an important roll in Iraq. "They love it. This is stuff that

they have wanted for a long time," said Selzler. "The reflex sights, the night vision, this is stuff that special operations has. The best thing that they have done for these Soldiers is ensuring that those Soldiers who had to convert from doing one kind of job like a tanker, into another like we will face in Iraq, have all the equipment that they need for that new mission."

Wendt said that the Army's final goal will always be the protection and wellbeing of its greatest asset - the individual soldier.

"We want to make sure that our guys going out into harm's way have the best that we have to offer and are as equipped as we can possibly make them," said Wendt. "We want this so they can survive, so they are lethal and, so they come back in one piece."



Post/Wood

Members of Company A, 105th Engineer Battalion, 30th Heavy Separate Brigade, get fitted for new boots in preparation for their deployment to Iraq. The new boots last longer and are insulated better than the ones previously issued.

Well-Being Risk Assessment Tool helps commanders fight suicide

By Cassidy Hill

Staff Writer

As Soldiers prepare for deployments and redeployments, and as depression sinks in, so does the probability of suicide.

Bill Powers, chief of the Soldier and Family Support Center, said although separation from family is one of several reasons Soldiers consider suicide, it's not the only reason linked to suicidal tendencies, that it is numerous problems that build up to the point

the individual feels he has no other option than to attempt suicide.

"The period that individuals are most at risk for this kind of behavior is typically in the early, mid spring," Powers said.

Powers said that although there are several components to the suicide prevention program, the two key parts are prevention and providing treatment services to those affected.

Powers said the Well-Being Risk Assessment Tool has been designed to provide leaders of

Soldiers and their units with some information on how to help affected individuals.

"We want it more than something you check off the block," Powers said. "We want it to be an instrument that helps leaders and individuals kind of move to the

next level if they need to in terms of, what do I need to do to address concerns either with individuals or with my unit and the family members."

Powers said there are several locations on Fort Riley where an individual can get help.

He said the Soldier and Family Support Center, battalion chaplains, churches, hospitals and physicians are all great places to seek help.

"We want to do things that will help not only the commanders of Soldiers identify any particular

individuals who may have concerns," Powers said. "We also want family members to have some awareness to be concerned about, not only as a spouse but also for themselves as well."

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Briefs

PAC Meeting

Child and Youth Services, Parent Advisory Council meets the first Friday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m., in the training room of building 6620. All parents are encouraged to attend. The agenda includes program updates, activities, and parent information on pertinent subjects. Parents can earn a 10 percent discount on child care services for a month after attending three meetings. Call Outreach Services at 239-9850 for additional information.

Flu Shots Available

Flu shots for Department of the Army civilians are available at the Occupational Health Clinic in Irwin Army Community Hospital. Flu shots will be given Mondays - Fridays from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m., on a walk-in basis. The Occupational Health Clinic is located in the basement level inside of the Preventive Medicine Service. You can access the clinic through the Preventive Medicine front door or from the hallway across from the dining facility offices.

PWOC Fellowship

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to join them at Morris Hill Chapel for fun fellowship and spiritual healing. The theme for the year the 2004 year is 'Come to the Living Water.' There will be multiple Bible studies to choose from, as well as, outreach opportunities, programs and activities. The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Childcare is available. For more information, call Juli Kelly at 784-8333.

Mailroom Classes

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" classes will be offered on Wednesday, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in building 319. Preenrollment is required. Call 239-5411 for enrollment.

DOD 4525-G-M, Vol II, DOD Postal Manual, requires each

commander who has a unit mailroom to appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer. Each mailroom must also have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates.

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (30 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers (if not involved in mail handling duties) only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. If unit postal officer is involved in mail handling duties, then they must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

Prior to rotations, commanders should ensure they have sufficient personnel appointed to perform necessary mail handling duties

UFM's Spring Classes

UFM Spring class registration has begun. Start the new year out by learning something new at UFM Community Learning Center.

Enroll in a class to develop a new skill or hobby, or just to have fun. January classes include: Pocket Billiards, Beginning Youth Ballet, Ballroom Dance, Belly Dancing, Martial Arts, Writing & Publishing Your Novel, Juggling, Book Club for Women, Basic Conversational Chinese, Kid's Beginning Knitting, Tennis, Bowling, and more. Look at the classes online now at www.ksu.edu/ufm.

For more information, call UFM at 785-539-8763.

Thrift Store

Personal checks will no longer be accepted.

Carr Hall offers the nearest ATM. The Thrift Shop is located in building 267, Stuart Avenue and is open from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday with extended hours on Thursday. They are: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feb. 7.

Items for consignment are accepted on Tuesdays. Donations are accepted everyday. For more

information on needed items or to schedule a pickup for large items, please call 784-3874.

Volunteers are always appreciated. Benefits include childcare reimbursement, first pick and discounts on donated items and a fun working atmosphere!

Leavenworth event

Take a break from the winter doldrums with a trip to Leavenworth, Kan., to attend the second annual "Taste of Leavenworth" on Feb. 28.

This event will be at the Riverfront Community Center, 123 S. Esplanade, Leavenworth from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

The evening features a sampling of Leavenworth's finest foods and beverages, music and artisans showcasing the best in hometown businesses and activities.

For further information and tickets, contact Melanie Meier at 784-4839.

Pool Opens

Eyster Pool has re-opened. Operational hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. -6 p.m.. The pool is closed Monday and Tuesday.

Cancer Support Group

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting will be Feb. 3, 6 p.m., Irwin Army Community Hospital, first floor, in the patient waiting area of the Combined Surgery Clinic. Participants are asked to bring any news articles pertaining to your cancer diagnosis.

Military servicemembers, their family members and Department of Army civilians are welcome to attend. Participation is encouraged for persons who were recently diagnosed with cancer, family and friends of persons with cancer and cancer survivors.

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting is usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, call 239-7163.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Community Health Nursing of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free Tobacco Cessation classes. This is a four-week program, which meets once a week and is run by trained medical professionals. Participants may choose to quit smoking without medication or health care providers may prescribe Zyban. Nicotine patches are also offered during the class.

For those concerned about gaining weight after kicking the tobacco habit, a dietician teaches healthy ways to avoid weight gain. Military servicemembers, their families and DoD civilians are eligible to participate. The next class begins Feb. 25. To register, call Community Health Nursing, 239-7323.

PWOC

Protestant Women Of the Chapel invites all women to join them at Morris Hill Chapel, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. and/or Thursdays, 7 p.m., for fun, fellowship and spiritual feeding. There are multiple Bible studies to choose from as well as outreach opportunities, programs and activities.

Childcare is available. For more information, call Juli Kelly, 784-8333.

Delays at gates

Jan. 24 and 25 drivers can expect traffic delays of 10 minutes or longer at the Trooper Drive access control point.

Contractors will be placing a steel canopy over the guard booth. Construction will take place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The contractor plans on working not only this weekend, but also Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 7 and 8, if necessary.

Additional construction will be done Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 for the same work at the Ogden access control point.

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Taking time to help

College student visits, reassures Fort Riley amputees

By Gary Skidmore
Command Inf. Officer

Katie Jerabek has always said there isn't anything she can't do when she puts her mind to it.

The 22 year-old political science major at Creighton University has proved over and over she's up for any task, including learning to walk again after having lost a leg to cancer when she was only 12 years-old.

"I've never been one to sit around and feel sorry for myself," said Jerabek, as she flipped her long reddish blond hair out of her face. "I have so much to be thankful for having survived cancer."

Jerabek, home on holiday break from school, stopped in a Irwin Army Community Hospital's physical therapy clinic to share her experience with two

special patients, Staff Sgt. David Chatham and Pfc. Adam Zarembo, two soldiers recently wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom and both living through having a leg amputated.

"When I lost my leg, I wanted to know details," said Jerabek. "The more I knew about my leg the more confident I became. That's why I talk to anyone with an amputation. It's who I am. It's what I deal with and people need to learn to deal with it also."

When Jerabek walked into the clinic, Zarembo and Chatham were waiting for her. Zarembo, who turned 20 on Oct. 8, was a little more apprehensive about the meeting. He is relatively new to having an amputated leg, having had it removed right before the holidays.

"What's she going to say that I don't already know," said Zarembo.

Although not cocky by nature, Zarembo felt guarded by Jerabek's presence.

Jerabek's been in this situation before.

"I expect them to be a little reserved when I walk in," said Jerabek. "In time, I'll get a question and then another and another and finally, they realize there's a lot they want to know."

Jerabek broke the ice with Chatham and Zarembo by showing her prosthesis to the two soldiers and sharing a story all could relate to.

"It broke when I was touring Berlin," said Jerabek. "I had a real problem over there because I didn't have my crutches," said Jerabek. "I communicated through sign language and found a shop that could fix by leg and everything eventually worked out."

One of the first questions Zarembo asked was about ice

skating, a passion of the Chicago native.

"I use to play hockey in school," said Zarembo. "Will I be able to ice skate with my prosthesis?"

Jerabek assured Zarembo he was only limited by himself, and when one question ended, the next came and before long, the three talked and joked and listened as each shared a concern about their amputation.

"This is why I came," said Jerabek. "If I can answer questions for these guys, then they'll be better off and more confident with themselves."

Even reluctant Zarembo felt eased with the visit.

"She's cool," said Zarembo. "I at least had the choice to have my leg removed, she wasn't given the option, and since she's had to deal with this longer than I have, she really helped me a lot."



Post/Skidmore

Katie Jerabek, 22, a senior at Creighton University talks with Staff Sgt. David Chatham, Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, about being an amputee and what he can expect. Jerabek visited Irwin Army Community Hospital while on holiday break from school.

Compensation authorized under UCMJ Article 139

By Brian W. Underdahl
Chief, Claims Division

Question: Another soldier in my barracks broke into my wall locker and stole all my CDs. He got an Article 15, but he will not give me back my property. What can I do?

Answer: If a soldier deliberately damages or destroys your property, any individual (military or civilian) is entitled to compensation directly from the soldier. Article 139, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), provides an easy, effective way for victims of deliberate misconduct to obtain compensation for the losses.

To file an Article 139 claim, you must submit a signed written claim for a definite amount of money, within 90 days of the incident giving rise to the claim to the Fort Riley Claims Office.

An Article 139 claim is an administrative action and is independent of any other criminal action against a soldier. There is no reason to delay filing or processing the Article 139 claim, even if criminal charges may be

pending. The Claims Office will forward the complaint to the offender's Brigade Commander (SPCMCA).

Although the complaint may be submitted to any commander in the offender's or claimant's chain of command, it is better to submit the claim through the Claims Office.

The SPCMCA then appoints an Investigating Officer (IO) who promptly investigates. After the IO completes his report and it is reviewed for legal sufficiency it goes to the SPCMCA for approval or disapproval. If the SPCMCA

approves the claim, the Finance and Accounting Office will be directed to withhold the amount approved from the pay of the offending soldier and pay it directly to the claimant.

The claim must be for personal property damage or loss only. Bodily injuries, damage to real estate, contract disputes - such as arguments over a Family Child Care contract, and sale of a car, are not payable under Article 139. If you have any questions about Article 139 claims, please call the Claims Office at 239-3830.

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Fort Riley Sports

January 23, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Speed

Getting to ball fast, steals big advantage for Armor

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor basketball team increased their record to 4 - 2 by defeating 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry's team 40 - 19 Tuesday evening at King Field House.

Speed mixed with good play anticipation aided the armor team to their win.

"Our biggest advantage we have on them is that we are faster. We are getting to the ball as we see it move between their players, and that is giving us a lot of steals. We are anticipating the plays very well, as well as the rebounds, which are dominating this game," said Bart Ronsone, coach, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

Both teams started out slowly on the scoreboard with no scoring for the first three and a half minutes of play. Both teams made strong charges with-

in those three and half minutes, only to finish their drives with bricks and air balls.

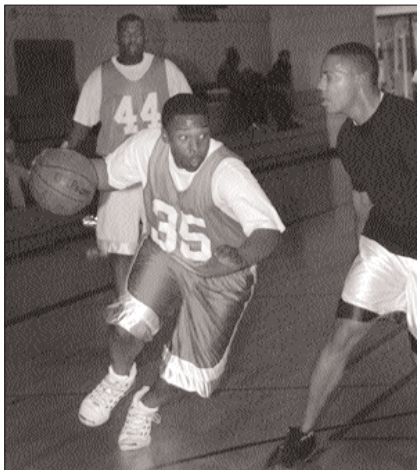
However, the scoring drought ended for the armor team when the ball dropped through the hoop with 16:45 on the clock for their first two points. Those two points were the start of a 13-point run on the infantry team.

The clock read 11:22 when the infantry team scored their first point, as one of two free throws found its way through the bottom of the net.

That single point would be the last team infantry would see for the next six minutes of the game, as the armor team went on another 8 - 0 scoring spree, bringing the score to 13 - 1.

The infantry team found their mark as the period came to a close by scoring five more points of their own, but by the close of the half the scoreboard

See Speed Page 12



Brian Kelly, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, spies the lane he needs as he drives the ball into the paint.



Kerrick Bostick, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, lays the ball up for two points over a host of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry defenders.

True hibernators slow heartbeats to only few per minute

By Carla Hurlbert
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

What happens to animals when the days get shorter and the cold weather arrives? Many migrate to warmer climates. Others prepare for winter by putting on a thick coat of fur. Some tuck themselves away for a long winter nap known as hibernation. Species as diverse as bears and beetles disappear from the landscape with hibernation on their mind.

Animals must prepare for hibernation starting in the fall. They try to put on as much fat as possible because they won't be eating much during the winter. Hibernating animals put on a special kind of fat called brown fat. This fat is stored across the back and shoulders and close to the animal organs (brain, liver). The brown fat works fast to deliver quick energy to an animal coming out of hibernation. Research indicates that during hibernation these animals generate a chemical that drops their body temperature 10 degrees and slows their heartbeat.

There are different kinds of hibernation. The "true" hibernators sleep so

deeply that they are almost impossible to wake up. These hibernators have a few heartbeats per minute and their body temperatures are slightly higher than their surroundings. Woodchucks, ground squirrels, and bats are "true" hibernators. Their bodies cool down until they are close to freezing, or "going into torpor" for five-seven months.

They stay torpid (sleeping state) for days or weeks at a time, warming up to normal body temperatures for a few hours or days to nibble on food and relieve themselves.

There are several species of bats here on Fort Riley, which hibernate through winter. They must find a place that stays above freezing. They will clump together, using each other's bodies to keep them warm in caves, hollow trees, and cellars, called hibernacula. When bats are clustering for hibernation one of the number hangs itself up by its hooks, head downward, and the others cling to it. There can be as many as sixty bats clinging together in one cluster, weighing as much as ten pounds, all supported by one bat.

Bears are not "true" hibernators

because they are easily awakened from their winter slumber. The Fort Riley residents, skunks, raccoons, and opossums are considered deep sleepers. These animals breathe a little more slowly and lower their body temperature a few degrees while sleeping, but they wake up to forage between winter snows. Note: mammals weighing 2 - 11 pounds do not

waken during their winter sleep. It exerts too much energy during the long awakening time.

Other animals such as snakes, turtles, and frogs hibernate through winter. These cold-blooded animals can't warm themselves up so they need to find a way to protect them from the cold. Turtles that live in the water and frogs bury themselves in the mud below the frost line. They get oxygen from air trapped in the mud. Land turtles hibernate in other animals' burrows. Their shell helps to protect them for the cold. Some snakes head underground to hibernate, others gather together in sheltered places, snake dens

can be found in rocks, rotted out logs, old wells and basements.

Most fish sink to the bottom of frozen lakes and ponds in the winter where they are quiet and awake. One type of fish that hibernates is the carp. He uses his tail to cover himself with mud from the bottom of the pond. There he sleeps the winter away.

What about the insects? Well most adult insects die in the fall, leaving only the eggs and young surviving, spending the winter as worm-like larvae or pupae. Many insects like termites and Japanese beetles look for winter shelter in holes in the ground, under the bark of trees, deep inside rotting logs or in any small crack they can find.

Many insects go into a state of suspended animation called "diapause" a super hibernation with the insect's metabolism being so low it is only minimally alive.

Ants build a year round nest made up of many chambers and deep underground tunnels that extend below the frost line. They hibernate huddled together in the special chambers away from the damp-

ness and changing outside temperatures until spring arrives.

Other insects fill their abdomen with "antifreeze" - alcohol glycerol. The eastern tent caterpillar contains 35 percent glycerol by body weight that prevents ice crystals from forming in its body fluids. Frogs and toads also contain glycerol so they can hibernate under a shallow covering of leaf litter in subfreezing temperatures.

Warming up from a deep hibernation is called arousal. To begin this process, deep hibernators use the brown body fat as fuel. This fuel heats up the heart and blood. The warm blood is pumped to the brain and the rest of the body. The shivering begins, which makes their muscles move and the rest of their body soon follows. A small bat's arousal time is up to one half hour, a large mammal can take many hours.

The study of hibernation has resulted in low temperature surgery that saves lives. Other studies involving the frog and insect antifreezes might be useful in organ transplants, aiding diabetics, or sending hibernating people into outer space.



Bridge
6 x 21.25"
Other Color





Fort Riley Community

January 23, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Digital Learning Center construction complete

Ceremony marks end of five-year process toward cutting edge education center

By William Biles
Staff Writer

There was a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Fort Riley's Digital Training Center Jan. 15 to commemorate the facility's completion.

The cutting of the ribbon marked the end of a five-year process to give Fort Riley a cutting edge education training center.

"It has been a long process, starting back in 1999 with the front part of the building and the three class rooms and finishing in December with the last portion of the class rooms back here," said Jack Lucas, keynote speaker, Fort Riley University.

"I am very pleased that all of you showed up here this afternoon. This ribbon cutting ceremony that we are having today represents the final construction on this facility."

The training center goes far beyond the borders of Fort Riley. "This facility is not only significant in the training of Fort Riley

Soldiers, but it can become the hub of all the training here in mid-America," said Dr. Fred Rodriguez, dean, Fort Riley University. "And we have an outreach not only throughout America; we have an outreach throughout the world."

With the training facility able to reach out across the world to give Soldiers the same class of education, it will help cut costs of travel and lodging expenses the Army would normally have to pay out.

"To calculate the savings this training facility will save the Army right now would be impossible, but through a whole year of training, it will run the savings into the millions of dollars," Rodriguez said.

During Rodriguez's speech, he quoted Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, as to what this facility not only means to Fort Riley, by putting it on the map, but how it will help the changing Army mission also.

"I had some words that I was going to talk about, but I am going to dismiss them and read a paragraph from Gen. Hardy's welcome

address," Rodriguez said.

"In his welcome letter, Fort Riley's commanding general recognizes that the work done with the Digital Training Facility is vital in order to effectively support the change in mission of the Army and the civilian work force," he commented.

"Gen. Hardy goes on to say in his address, 'Advanced technological initiatives and the great work produced from this high-tech facility will serve not only our Soldiers at Fort Riley, but it will also serve Soldiers around the world,'" and that to me is quite significant, we are taking the lead in this high-tech movement," said Rodriguez.

"Enhanced training at any time and any place, exemplifies Fort Riley's transformative and leadership initiatives as America's Warfighting Center. According to Washington D.C., what we are doing at Fort Riley University is another initiative that we are doing that will put us on the map."

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, Fort Riley, was on hand at the ceremony to talk about

the technology the facility has to offer, and compared it to other Army schools he has been to during his military career.

"Fort Riley is really stepping forward and looking into the future. This is a great place to train and educate Soldiers, civilians and family members - that is what the Fort Riley University concept does here," said Simpson.

"I have been to some of the great schools we have in the Army, and I was associated with the Naval War College as a trainer. I will tell all of you here that none of them have the facilities that we have here. This is a great facility - this is mind-boggling - this is the future. Actually, this is now and the future because our young Soldiers grew up in a digital world and expect this kind of stuff," he said.

"Being digitally linked is efficient, effective and is going to be the way we train and educate folks for the future, and it really supports the theme, 'training any time, any place.'"



CSM James Noble, Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Dr. Fred Rodriguez, dean, Fort Riley University and Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, cut the ribbon to mark the completion of the Fort Riley University's Digital Learning Center.

Sing-a-grams available

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

"Drink to me only with thine eyes, and I will pledge with mine; or leave a kiss but in the cup and I'll not look for wine," wrote Ben Jonson, a 17th Century English poet, in his poem "To Celia."

Though old-fashioned, these words still have the power to melt a lovers' heart when spoken in the right way and by the correct person.

For those seeking more than simple lace and ribbons this Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is offering its services to assist you in making this Valentine's Day a memorable one.

Valentine sing-a-grams are available for purchase now through Presidents Day weekend, when volunteer singers will travel from office to office delivering the songs.

On Feb. 11 and 12, costumed volunteers, armed with balloons and candy, will sing to those signed up to receive sing-a-grams.

"Last year, we had one girl dress up like Dorothy from 'The Wizard of Oz,'" said Spc. Jason Dunlap, BOSS president. "Soldiers wishing to purchase a sing-a-gram for them selves or a friend may visit or call the ITR office at 239-5614.

Sing-a-grams are \$10 for the song alone, \$15 for a balloon and candy, and \$20 for a song, balloon and candy. Donations also are welcome.

"Usually we have over 100 people sign up for sing-a-grams," he said. "This is something we've done every year, and we usually have a very good turn out for it. It makes for some memories, and everybody has a good time."



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart, Medical Department Activity, reads a poem during the Martin Luther King celebration held in Barlow Theater Jan. 15.

King celebrated

Fort Riley honors fallen civil rights leader Jan. 15

By Cassidy Hill
Staff writer

A crowd of Soldiers and community members gathered at Barlow Theater Jan. 15 to honor the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. This year's celebration theme was "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off."

"Today were joining with the rest of the nation and the Department of Defense in commemorating this day due to Dr. King's visionary legacy of hope for a more just and peaceful America," said Maj. Michael Bell, at the beginning of the ceremony.

"Dr. King understood and articulated a vision of what America could be when respect and equality were granted to all. His vision remains as compelling today as it was some 30 odd years ago," added Bell, the Division of Equal Opportunity program manager.

After the opening remarks, Sgt. 1st Class Amogen B. Walker sang a song he said King loved dearly, "Precious Lord." Walker said King had sung "Precious Lord," in his sermons and seminars. Walker dedicated the song to the Soldiers in Iraq.

The guest speaker, Chap. (Lt. Col.) Dan McClure, met King though one of his roommates in 1962. McClure said when he was about 19, he had a roommate named Thomas Kearney whose relative was a pastor in Macon, Ga. Kearney was concerned about McClure's spiritual self and wanted him to meet the relative. McClure said that meeting the relative didn't change his mischievous behavior, so Kearney then had him met King.

"The one thing I remember about Dr. King when I first met him was how young he was, he wasn't even 40 years old," McClure said. "What struck me was that he was so educated and young. I expected an old man since his name was Doe, not a young man."

McClure said he didn't see King as a civil rights activist, but more as a minister who was concerned about individuals. "Did I become a minister today because of King? Maybe," concluded McClure.

After the celebration, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wright said he thought the celebration went well.

"I really enjoyed the speech from Chap. McClure and about how he knew King, it was very touching," Wright said.

Local schools sensitive to students with deployed parents

By Cassidy Hill
Staff Writer

As the war in Iraq continues, area elementary schools are educating students on the war and Iraq and are offering support to children who have a parent deployed overseas.

Principal of Custer Hill Elementary Ciera Jackson said that some of the teachers have changed the clocks in their rooms to Iraqi time to help the students understand the cultural differences

between Kansas and Iraq. She also said the students are comparing maps and are discussing Iraqi climate, clothes, schools, pictures and children.

"The students are real interested in other kids from Iraq," Jackson said. Morris Elementary brought in an author to help kids understand deployments. Sarah Jones, an author of 'To Keep Me Safe,' shared her book with the students. Principal Greg Lumb said the book is a story for kids who are affected by military deployments. He also said that students are learning about the war by writing letters and that some have a

picture of the deployed parent on their desk or on the wall.

Fort Riley Elementary has student support groups that meet once a week to help students who have questions or concerns about the war and their deployed parent. Principal Becky Lay said students are grouped according to their grade level and are met with a student support monitor. Lay also said students are learning about the war through a current events magazine called 'Time For Kids,' that is read and discussed in some of the classrooms.

Jefferson Elementary has a bulletin

called "Wall of Heroes" where students place a picture of their deployed parent.

"Kids put up a picture of their mom or dad who is overseas," said principal Judy Ward.

"As the kids get letters from their deployed parents, they then place the letter underneath their picture on the bulletin." Ward also said the upper grades are participating in a map study and are learning the whereabouts of Iraq.

Ware Elementary students being educated about the war and Iraq through writing pen pal letters to units from Fort

Riley. Principal Deb Guftafson said some students are actually writing pen pal letters to their deployed parent. She also said some of the fourth and fifth-grade students are learning about Iraq by discussing current events.

Area elementary schools have increased support and attention to students who have parents deployed overseas.

According to school officials, every school has its own way of educating students on Iraq. And, the school principals said they are trying to keep things as normal as they can.





Tax Center open for business, free assistance

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

According to a famous quote from American statesman Benjamin Franklin, "the only certainties in life are death and taxes."

Though unavoidable, the military is taking steps to ensure that the process of taxation flows as easily as possible for its Soldiers.

The Fort Riley Tax Service Center opened Thursday, in building 7034 on Custer Hill.

Tax assistance is an annual program run by the Army to support Soldiers in the months leading up to April 15, when all the completed tax forms are due to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Our purpose is to offer free tax assistance for Soldiers, their family members and retirees," said Capt. Henry DeWoskin, installation tax attorney.

"We do taxes for free and e-file them, and it's all at no cost. We

want to get you a refund, if we can."

DeWoskin says the tax assistance center performs the same functions as a civilian financial business, only at no cost and the assurance of having an attorney available to answer any questions that may come up.

Part of being smart, according to DeWoskin, is getting an early start on taxes instead of being surprised April 15.

"I recommend you don't wait until the last minute," he said. "I also recommend Fort Riley's tax center, since we're free."

Perhaps the most important document to have is W-2 wage earning statement.

This year the government will not be mailing W-2's, but will make them available at the MyPay web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

A W-2 will also be required for any part time jobs that the soldier may have had during the last year.

"W-2s are coming out now, and I highly recommend that Soldiers start collecting them," said DeWoskin.

Other important items to have include, a list of the social security numbers of spouses and dependants, 10-99 DIV's for stock market earnings, 10-99 I-T's for interest earned on bank accounts and any miscellaneous 10-99s that arrive in the mail.

The adviser will also require a power of attorney, IRS form 2848, if filing for another individual.

Because legal assistance isn't authorized to become involved in private business the only business deductions able to be applied for are child care expenses, so related forms or receipts should also be brought to the tax office.

The legal office is also capable of taking care of Soldiers who rent property, which can also be applied for as a tax deduction.

"There are also certain tax benefits to being in a combat zone,"

said DeWoskin. "We expect to be dealing with that a lot more this year than in previous years."

Even though the advisors are fully trained to deal with any special tax situation, DeWoskin issues one final warning to applicants.

"The taxpayer is ultimately responsible for what goes on," he said.

"We'll fill out the paperwork, but you still need to proofread the forms before you sign anything."

If you are audited, the legal assistance office will offer all possible help, though their lawyers are not authorized in civilian courts.

Hours for the tax assistance office will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The office will be closed Sundays.

Any further questions may be directed at the Tax Assistance Office, at 239-1040.

MOAA offering 50 scholarships to military family members

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The Military Association of America is giving away scholarship money to 50 family members of active duty personnel worldwide that are college-bound or current undergraduate students for the 2004 - '05 school year.

Students can apply for the grant by completing the on-line application located on their website <http://www.moaa.org>.

Membership in MOAA is not required and there are no need-based criteria, no grade point average minimums, no essays or fees needed to receive awarded the grant. The only requirement is the students need to have the application submitted by noon,

Eastern Standard Time, on March 1.

To be eligible for the grant, students must be under age 24, working on a first undergraduate degree and a dependant child of an active duty service person - enlisted, warrant officer and officer - in the U. S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This includes members of drilling Reserves and National Guard.

Grant recipients will be selected randomly from among the applicants within each of the seven services, with representation given to each service. Semi-finalists will be notified by email and the self-check on the website by mid-March. Winners will be

notified in May.

If chosen as a semi-finalist in March, he or she must then send proof of college acceptance/registration for the 2004 - '05 year and copies of both the applicant's military id card and the sponsor's id card to: MOAA, base/Post Scholarship, 201 N. Washington Street,

Alexandria, VA. 22314 - 2311.

If a computer is not available at home, MOAA suggests he or she go to the school's counselor's office or a public library. For any questions that are not answered at the website, the applicant may email them to edassist@moaa.org.

ITR

MWR Bus

The MWR Bus is available for rent for Command and unit functions, Hail and Farewells, Family Readiness Groups, retiree groups, church groups and Fort Riley private organizations. Call ITR for further information.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

AFVC is a "Space Available" program that offers condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$249 per unit per week. If you enjoy off-season activities in popular locations without the hassle of high-season prices and crowds, the AFVC offers an incredible vacation value. Call or stop by for further information.

KCI Roadrunner

The KCI Roadrunner provides door-to-door service from home to the airport. Let ITR make your reservations. Commissions are paid back to Fort Riley's Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

McCain Auditorium

There are military discounts for upcoming performances at McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

There is a limit of two discount tickets per id. Schedule of performances includes: Feb. 6 -- Giselle (Moscow Festival Ballet), Feb. 14 -- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Feb. 26 -- Moscow State Radio Symphony, March 4 -- Rigoletto, March 7 -- The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde, March 14 -- Lunasa (Irish Folk music for St. Patrick's Day), April 17 -- Regina Carter Quintet. Stop by ITR for brochure and further information.

Military Salutes

Many theme parks, regional attractions and vacation destinations will salute the military with free admissions and deep discounts through late fall and early winter. Stop by ITR for additional information and low rates for hotels near those attractions.

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Chaplains

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lieutenant colonel with extensive training in how to perform his ministry in a combat environment," said Willoughby. "There is also a first lieutenant who just came in the Army six months ago, who is very inexperienced in how to function in a military environment."

Although some of the chaplains may be new to the Army, Willoughby stated that the job skills they offer to help the Soldiers under their care are formidable and ready to go.

"All chaplains come into the Army credentialed and professionally proficient to do their ministry, they just have to be able to translate that over into a military environment," he said.

"Across the board they have good experience and my role is just to help them to mesh together

and work together," said Willoughby.

Many of the missions and problems that face the soon to be deployed chaplains are more intense than those faced by full time Army chaplains," said Willoughby. The huge social and family switch from Reserve to full time Army has the stress levels high and the chaplains are working to meet the increased needs of their fellow soldiers as they prepare to deploy.

"They are handling a lot more Red Cross issues and personal stress issues than active duty chaplains," said Willoughby.

"The chaplains have been entrusted by their commander to try to field these issues and sort them out so that the commander can make a decision as to what is a legitimate crisis that would war-

rant the soldier going back home. They are forced to make some very tough decisions."

Willoughby sees the duties that he and the other chaplains perform as being more than just religious services, he also sees them as fulfilling a part of the constitution and America's dream of religious freedom.

"Our primary function is based on the national values of enabling people to exercise their religious faith and a constitutional value that has always been a part of our military," said Willoughby.

"Chaplains have been a part of the military since 1775, they are one of the oldest branches in the military."

With all that the chaplains do, Willoughby says the Soldier and what he means to the Army is still the most important part of what he

does.

"Chaplains address what I call the human dimension of soldiering," said Willoughby.

"Soldiers are human beings, not extensions of their equipment."

"They have an emotional, spiritual side of them that has to be fit," Willoughby stated.

"Just as they have to be physically fit and capable and trained to perform their mission, they have to be spiritually sound and emotionally strong in order to endure the hardship that they are going to face," said Willoughby.

"That is precisely where chaplains come in. We assist soldiers in the free exercise of their religious faith, which is a very powerful part of human rights. We help soldiers become strong in those areas, making them better soldiers," he said.

Christian Concert, Seminar Series offered

The Fort Riley Installation Chaplain is pleased to announce a special series of concerts and seminars beginning February and extending through June 2004.

The Christian music concerts are in celebration of active and reserve soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and will also be accompanied the following day by seminars for marriage, family and single soldier wellness.

This is a series of concerts led by nationally and regionally known music artists and speakers. Although designed for soldiers and their families, the concerts are open to the public.

Each concert will be held Friday evening at 7 p.m. at Morris Hill Chapel followed the next day by a variety of seminar speakers.

Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Morris Hill Chapel
Susie and Paul Luchsinger (Country, Cowboy, Western Christian Music)

Feb. 21, 9 a.m., Morris Hill Chapel
Susie and Paul Luchsinger, Marriage Enrichment Seminar
Susie Luchsinger, is married and has three children and lives on a ranch in Oklahoma with her husband Paul. They founded Psalm Ministries to minister at rodeos.

Susie holds six Dove awards, has been voted female artist several times, favorite female Christian Country vocalist several times, Christian Country artist of the year several times, entertainer of the year for Country Gospel Music Association. She has appeared on TNN's "Crook and Chase", Johnny Carson, the Liza Gibbons Show, and "700 Club" and has been featured in Billboard Magazine, USA Today, and People Magazine. She and Paul do family seminars, youth seminars as well as concerts.

March 20, 9 a.m., Morris Hill Chapel
Wives of Warriors, Marriage Enrichment Seminar
Wives of Warriors is a blend of four ladies Paula Halvorson, wife of an active Coast Guard sailor, Judy Rossi, wife of a retired Army soldier, Ileen Stubbs, wife of a retired Army soldier, and Doris Waldrop an Air Force widow.

Doris is a counselor for the Officer's Christian Fellowship and Mission America. Ileen is a counselor for a church-counseling center, Judy is a PWOC speaker focusing on marriage and parenting and Paula is a Bible study leader and speaker.

With their combined skills and experience they present seminars to military personnel designed to strengthen relationships and families.

They provide a ministry of encouragement to military wives of all ranks through scriptural teaching and fellowship, particularly to those who struggle with lengthy separations and deployments.

April 16, 7 p.m., Morris Hill Chapel
Tim Kaufman (Conservative Contemporary Music)

April 17, 7 p.m., Morris Hill Chapel
Tim Kaufman, Man's Seminar

Speed

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read 27 - 6 in favor of the Armor team.

"Our strategy in this game was the three things we've been practicing a lot of over the last several days, which were our lay-ups, cross passes and our free throws. We haven't been making the free throws, but our passes are looking a lot better and our lay-ups are always there," said Ronsone. "I told them at half-time to play the same way they did in the first, with two things to focus on - driving the ball in to the board and setting up the pick for the three-point shot," he said.

A big part of the game for the men of armor was the ability to have frequent substitutes throughout the game.

"Having fresh legs on the court is a great asset to have. When you can have men come in and out

during the game, those fresh legs really help out," Ronsone commented. But the key element in their victory was their quick hands and the ability to get to the rebounds.

"The biggest thing that has been helping us out tonight is our rebounding - we're just dominating off the boards, offensively and defensively - if you can do that, you're going to win the game," he said.

The second half played much like the first half did, with the exception that the infantry team were able to put more than double the amount of points on the board then they did in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Another aspect as to what hurt the infantry team was the amount of players that were able to make it to the game.

"It's hard for us to get everyone together because we have a lot of our guys in the field doing their gunnery qualifications," said Otis Brundidge, coach, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. "Unlike the other team who obviously has a good nucleus for their team."

Even though the infantry team lost, they still looked at themselves with honesty.

"We had a lot of bad passes in the first half, and that is what's beating us right now (the points given up by the bad passes). The

first half is when they really got their lead by exploiting our defense," Brundidge said. "It is really what the caliber of the team is - how the team works; how they move the ball; how they play defense - that's what it is all about, and we are just lacking right now. If we are going to lose this game, we should at least learn something from it. That should be how to have a better defense, and to make our shots. To win, sometimes you have to lose," Brundidge concluded.

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K-State students honored

MANHATTAN — Outstanding academic performance during the 2003 fall semester is earning 1,823 students semester honors from Kansas State University. K-State also is awarding graduation honors to 83 students for their outstanding academic performance in their undergraduate work at the university.

Students receiving semester or graduation honors also receive commendation from their deans, with the honors recorded on the students' permanent academic records.

Students receiving semester honors rank in the top 10 percent of their class within their respective colleges and were enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of graded course work.

K-State students who earn a 3.95 or above academic average graduate summa cum laude. The remaining students in the upper 3 percent of the college graduating class are designated magna cum laude, while the remaining students in the upper 10 percent of the class graduate cum laude.

Graduating summa cum laude were 39 students; four students graduated magna cum laude; and 45 students graduated cum laude. Five students who received multiple degrees also earned graduation honors for each degree earned.

The following students, listed by county and hometown, are earning semester or graduation honors from K-State

Fort Riley: Mollie Nina Borders, Sonja Kristina Ellerbee, Emily Suzanne Entzi-Anderson, Lisa Lyn Jones, Heidi Lavelle Paulson, Calile Marie Sexton.

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